AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A distinction can be made between signal type context and node context. The signal type context of a node v includes the input and output signal types of v. The signal type context does not change when transformations are applied in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of v. The node context of a node v consists of the nodes in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of v. The node context does change when transformations are applied in the ~~neighbourhood~~neighborhood of v. As ~~us~~is used below, a context-dependent cost (function) is defined as a cost (function) that depends on the node context. Context-dependent or not, each cost (function) depends on the signal type context[:].